

COGENT REASONS

And Sound Practical Sense Are United in the

IMPROVEMENTS SUGGESTED

For "Making Glad the Waste Places About Wheeling," and to Any One With an Observant Eye and Practical Ideas, There Are Many Which Could Be Made "A Thing of Beauty and a Joy Forever" at Small Expense.

The following paper, entitled "Some Suggestions for Making Glad the Waste Places About Wheeling," was read by Mr. Frank Stanton at the last session of the Twilight Club. The members considered it of such an interesting character that by unanimous vote they requested the author to submit it to one of the daily papers for publication. The paper follows:

In casting about for a subject for my paper, I was considerably influenced in my final decision by the subjects announced for the two meetings immediately preceding this one. Mr. Culbertson's "Social Settlements," and Mr. Erskine's "Municipal Reform," both having to do with the elevation and improved condition of urban communities, it occurred to me that I might add some finishing touches to their solid structure that would at least appeal to the eye of the artist (which is present, in some degree, in most of us) if not to the judgment of the utilitarian (which is unfortunately the ever-ruling sentiment in the average American mind).

But here I am, with the props literally knocked from under me.

While Mr. Culbertson, with much care and deliberation, laid a broad foundation, Mr. Erskine went off at a tangent, and after he had no doubt burned his bricks and mixed his mortar, drawn up his plans and specifications for an elaborate structure, as beautiful, and, it may be, as unlikely of realization as a castle in Spain.

Even at this advanced stage, he is caught up in the whirl-pool of the Transvaal question and he introduces a fire-brand into the erstwhile dignified circle of the Twilight Club, which kindled a conflagration that would have wiped out every vestige of decorum but for the wet blankets that the chairman so deftly wove from the unpronounceable Boer vocabulary.

So I am left to erect my towers and minarets, or more correctly hanging gardens directly on the ground floor. There is, I believe, the power in this organization to do something more than instruct and entertain its members.

There is no reason that I can conceive of, why we should not take up practical questions now and then, and when the opportunity offers, use our influence as individuals to have them put into practice. What I shall have to say to you to-night will be, as your leader, to suggest to your minds a crude idea that has occurred to me and which I hope to have you elaborate.

To lead up to my text, it may be well to say a few things in regard to cities that emphasize the necessity of making them what they should be. From the year 1880 to 1890 the urban population of the United States increased 61 per cent, while the rural population increased only 14 per cent. Chicago more than doubled, while 732 townships in Illinois were depleted.

It is not essential to my purpose to go into the reasons for this re-distribution of population. Suffice it to say that the causes are economic ones and beyond our control. For one, I have always cherished the idea that the way to solve many of our municipal problems, was to drive the Adams and Eves of the city back to Eden.

But when, among other things, I found that about all the persons possible were already getting their living by agriculture, and to add to the food supply was only to decrease the farmer's income, I had to give up my Arcadia.

It is a favorite pastime of many idle enthusiasts to suggest remedies for our individual and collective ills. Since the day Adam and Eve indulged in the Fall Pippin, and had the lease of their little farm cancelled, there has been all kinds of trouble in the world, and all sorts and conditions of men have proposed all sorts and conditions of plans to set things right.

The theologians have made a comfortable living out of the various so-

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lutions they have suggested, and continue to suggest. The politicians have waxed fat in their self-appointed offices as regulators of the economic affairs of the universe, and as might be expected of these who think more of the flesh-pots of Egypt than the hardships of the wilderness they are not yet so far as the Red Sea on the way to the promised land.

An occasional statesman or philosopher has gotten his head above the clouds of prejudice sufficiently to get a broad, comprehensive view of the situation and done what he could to elevate the human race above the beasts of the field. So much for the theories that look to the general betterment of mankind. All these must have their practical working details and having shown that this is to be a nation of cities, let us see what, as practical, average citizens, we can do towards making our city life harmless, healthful and happy. A recent magazine writer remarks: "In contemporary civilization, two great complimentary tendencies are in operation; one is bringing the country into the town, and the other is carrying the town into the country." This is not only true, but it is in no way contradicted by my statement that the city is growing at the expense of the rural districts. It simply emphasizes the need for bringing whatever we can of the country into the town. It means that those who can afford it prefer the country as a place of residence for themselves and their families, but yet carry on their vocations in the city and keep in touch with its life. We find no horny hands nor bayseeds among the country Twilights, yet of such is the modern rural community referred to by the writer quoted above.

A Mr. J. W. Martin, in the September Harper, in an article on "A Cure for City Corruption," starts out with this sentence: "In the United States it is universally agreed that the city governments are the chief sores on the body politic." This he makes plain, even to the most doubting Thomas, and then (as many a better man has done) goes on to suggest the remedies. Among others the formation of clubs for the improvement of the homes, the health and the happiness of the poorer classes. The city ownership of water, light and street car franchises, and with the surplus profits to inaugurate public baths, large and small parks, free music and other rational and cultivating entertainment for the masses. As to the question of municipal ownership, I shall not intrude it here, as I wish no side issues to distract your discussion from the main question. Then admitting, as I think you will, that Wheeling is not altogether a thing of beauty, either morally or physically, we come to my text, "some suggestions for making glad the waste places about Wheeling." What first put the thought into my mind was the idea of taking the section of Ninth street, between Market and Chapline, which by reason of its forty-five degree grade is entirely useless as a street, and planting it with trees to be bought and paid for by those living in the vicinity. This, I found, met with the approval of my neighbors, and more than enough trees could be had for the asking. Then it occurred to me that the permission and protection of the city authorities would be required to make it permanent and practicable. In the meantime, I discussed the matter with Robert Hazlett, in his capacity as a civil engineer, and he thought so well of it that he succeeded in getting the other end of Ninth street, from Main street to the Pan-Handle railroad, condemned and an order was issued by the board of public works to erect a retaining wall next to the railroad and the space dedicated to the purposes of a park.

I have interested the city engineer, Mr. A. L. White, in my scheme, and had he the power to carry it out, it would soon be an accomplished fact.

With this as a starting point, I made further search and exploration and found that without the cost of a penny for real estate, that the entire city could be beautified and the tired mother and ailing child be made better and happier, and at the same time these eyesores, with their collection of rubbish, would be things of the past as from the loathsome caterpillar springs the bright and attractive butterfly. With this as a beginning, I soon discovered new worlds to conquer, and having determined upon this paper, I found it necessary to make a hasty survey of the whole situation, at such times as opportunity offered from my business.

The first place to begin a work of this kind, on anything like an extensive scale, would naturally be the city commons, extending from Seventh street to Tenth, along the side and top of Wheeling hill.

This comprises some forty acres that in its present state is a disgrace to the city, and a standing reproach, as well as an advertisement of our utter lack of civic pride. For miles up and down the river the traveler, by train or boat, will receive his first impression of our city, by having his eyes greeted with the architectural splendors of a ramshackle crematory and a defunct fertilizing plant, with their necessary accompaniments of ash dumps and garbage heaps.

This calls to mind a favorite story or illustration often used by an old Bethany professor, who told us how the

practical, close-fisted farmer would locate his pig sty in his fruit yard, where it was "handy for slopping the hogs." This, he said, was what he would call a "prosperous cottage."

If Wheeling hill is not rank prose, it certainly is the blindest kind of verse. Yet how easily might this all be changed, and in the course of a few years be made not only a joy forever, but a thing of beauty and a source of pride.

The first and perhaps the greatest cost that would require an outlay of cash would be the expense of having an expert landscape gardener make a plat of the ground, showing the drives, walks, terraces, location of trees, shrubbery, fountains, etc.

After this had been wisely done, some of the trees could be set out and work begun to divert the heavy rainfall from washing the gullies still deeper, and these, by methods known to any experienced farmer who has a hillside field, could be filled and grass covered in one or two seasons. The labor for this work is right at hand in the work house at the head of Seventh street.

In order that no vandal should injure or destroy any vegetation, the watchman who looks after the water basin could be made park keeper, with police powers, at some slight additional cost, and no depredations would be committed. With some rapidly growing trees, like the Carolina poplar, it would be but a short time until their shade would make it an attractive place on a hot summer day.

Only five or six years ago the board of education, at my instance, planted ten or twelve Carolina poplars and hard-wood maples in the Lincoln school yard, just adjoining the city commons, and to-day they not only beautify this formerly barren site, but make the building and yard much more comfortable and attractive.

On the crown of the hill is ground that could easily be leveled and tennis courts and croquet grounds established, or a music and speaking stand and comfortable park benches for the people who come to listen to either music or buncombe.

I, at one time, had a wild dream of using the walls of the basin, and with structural iron erect thereon an elevated auditorium for music and refreshments, something after the manner of the pleasure piers at the ocean resorts. But I fear that the winds would blow and carry off my dream some dark night; at least, such is the opinion of my friend, Engineer White, and if you will all promise to help along the park project, I will agree to give up my cherished pavilion—at least, for the present.

In case the city should care to extend the park limits beyond the city commons, the adjacent ground could certainly be had for low prices, as much of it can be earning nothing and bids fair to continue to do so.

The city owns a strip the width of the basin on the eastern slope of the hill, extending to the Wheeling & Elm Grove railroad. This is too nearly perpendicular for anything but a goat, or Hazlett and Russell to clamber over, yet by persistent effort grass may be induced to cover over its ugliness and thus another green butterfly spring from this homely grub.

So much for my designs upon Wheeling hill. I honestly believe the project is not only feasible, but with the proper amount of effort, can easily be made an accomplished fact. But lest the argument be used that it is too sectional and only convenient to the dwellers above the creek, let us see what can be done for the dweller on the South Side. With this locality, I am not so familiar, yet I have made myself acquainted with a few facts that will aid in solving this difficulty.

The first available spot for our purpose seems to be Chapline hill, which is private property, but of such a character that it must be a source of no profit to its owner.

I believe Mr. W. E. Whitaker is the owner of at least a part of it, and I am sure he would put no stumbling block in the way of its acquisition by the city for public purposes such as we are considering.

Even in its present condition, and with a road like a Rocky mountain trail leading up to it, it affords one of the finest views and best breathing spots about the city. On its broader and more level top, extending back indefinitely, an ideal play-ground for children could be formed. Its too-steep face could only be grassed and planted with hardy shrubs and trees, but what a difference that would mean! Like converting one of the late Judge Thompson's treatises on the category of the infinite into the melodious verses of Omar Khayyam's Rubaiyat.

I see that already the county commissioners have had the idea of improving the roadway leading to the top presented to their distinguished consideration. Surely "the world do move!"

But there is another solution of a South Side park that could be carried to its consummation with little or no expense and afford a convenient and attractive resting place for the weary employee and his family. From about Thirty-eighth street to Forty-eighth street is a long, narrow stretch of ground, in some parts, as at Bloch's, something like one hundred feet between the railroad and the river, and at Forty-eighth street another piece of about the same size.

Between these two points and the river could be filled to make it one continuous uniform tract. The river lines would not be encroached upon, as I am informed by Engineer White, and the adjacent mills would be only too glad to use this for a dumping ground. With this done, the rest would be easy, and once taken possession of by the city for this purpose, would save it from the maw of the greedy railroad.

With the East End, with its little park (filled to its last bench on every warm summer night) and those I have suggested on the road to accomplishment, would we not be a healthier, happier and prouder people?

This is really the end and aim of my paper, to utilize these waste places for the making glad of the people who cannot afford the time or money to go to the country, but must have it brought to them.

I could put it on the low plane of dollars and cents and show how it would pay in attracting population, in advertising us to the traveling public and the strangers within our gates.

But what more does any man ask, at least, any one with blood and not ice water in his veins, than that life would be pleasanter, happier and better for those who go up and down our streets?

It might be pertinent to suggest free baths, free music, the beautifying of factory grounds and buildings, as is done in many other cities, but perhaps these might be natural sequences, and let us not try for too much, lest we lose all.

In the discussion which may follow, I shall expect no bouquets for the manner in which my idea is set forth. I have only attempted to tell you in plain English what I would like to see accomplished by our city, of which we are a part. If the idea is not to your liking or is impracticable, say so in your plainest Anglo-Saxon; but if it meets a responsive chord and you approve the project, let us hear what, in your opinion, would be the best way to have it consummated.

ATTORNEY GENERAL MONNETT

Submits His Report to the Governor of Ohio, Suggesting Legislation Needed to Correct Abuses—\$300,000 Claimed to Be Due by Manhattan Oil Company for Oil Taken From State Land.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Jan. 5.—The report of Attorney General Monnett, filed with the governor, to-day, is interesting because of its reference to the anti-trust litigation prosecuted by the department. Referring to the decision of the supreme court in the suits against the insurance combinations, the attorney general recommends that the laws of the state be amended so as to make it illegal for insurance agents as well as companies to make such pools.

In regard to the alleged discriminations in freight rates, he recommends the enactment of what is known as the "commodity rate statute," now in operation in Illinois.

The failure of the supreme court to consider his alleged bribery information against officers of the Standard Oil Company because it did not connect the officers of the defendant company with the alleged bribery offers to the attorney general, is recited, and the suggestion is made that there ought to be amendments to the laws of the state on contempt which would reach the agents and representatives of corporations that attempt to control the course of litigation against them by the corrupt use of money. He also suggests legislation against advertising in newspapers, which is likely to have influence on pending legislation.

The attorney general claims there is due from the Manhattan Oil Company, connected with the Standard Oil Company, the sum of \$300,000 for oil taken from land owned by the state of Ohio.

SIX MEN INJURED

By a Dynamite Explosion at Duquesne, Pa.—Building Wrecked.

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 5.—By an explosion of dynamite at the Carnegie blast furnaces at Duquesne, Pa., to-day six laborers were injured. Their names are John Delaw, Andrew Pakan, Graft Bollen, John Ditch, James Best and Mike Pelaski. The four first named were badly hurt, but all will recover. The explosion occurred in a long corrugated iron building while the workmen were thawing out dynamite, preparatory to blasting iron ore in the stock yards. The building was badly wrecked and the windows in many houses in Duquesne were shattered by the explosion.

INDEPENDENT

Window Glass Manufacturers to Combine.

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 5.—The Independent Window Glass Manufacturers, composed of all the firms operating factories uncontrolled by the American Window Glass Company, have arranged a meeting for Tuesday, January 9, to settle definitely the question of forming a combination of the factories or abandoning the scheme entirely.

The firms who have signified their intention to be present at the meeting embrace the production of 700 pots operating this fire.

Took Favorable Action.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—The senate committee on privileges and elections to-day took favorable action upon Senator Chandler's resolution prohibiting the appointment or employment of senators, representatives and United States judges to perform executive functions. The resolution provides that none of these officials shall represent the President or an executive department in any diplomatic or consular capacity or act in any way as the representative of any executive officer.

WANT TO TELL IT.

Many Enthusiastic Wheeling Citizens Want to Make It Public.

There is something in it. When people want to talk about it. Publicity of a good thing is good for the people.

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Here is an Eleventh street citizen: "So does. Mrs. E. Benesa, of No. 63 Eleventh street, says: 'There was continual dull, worrying pain across my kidneys and attacks of inflammatory rheumatism when I caught cold or in changeable weather. Remedies I tried failed to give me more than temporary relief until I procured Doan's Kidney Pills at the Logan Drug Company. My back at the time was troubling me a great deal but a few doses helped me and in a short time all traces of the complaint disappeared.'"

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